Chapter 5

Young and Free

A month later...
All set.
Is Jolteon ready yet? Espeon has already left to the port with Eevee, Vaporeon, and Umbreon awhile ago.
No, he's still asleep.
That lazy head...
Why don't you go wake him up?
M-me?
Oh well, if you don't, I will~
Hey, wait up!
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Is anything wrong?
I'm nervous too.
No, I'm just a bit nervous, that's all. I mean we're going to ride on a ship.
Sis!
snore
snore
Well, I guess Vaporeon was right that waking him up gently won't work.
He won't wake up!
Kris... Let me sleep a little... *snore* more...
Who's Kris?
Oh, that's my sister's name.
That's Vaporeon's name? It's beautiful.

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Come on, wake up, you dummy!
Sis, yelling at him won't help.
What else can I do? Hit him?
Oh, brother...
What did I do...?
Didn't think that would work...
Big bro, Espeon and the others already went to the port.
Oh... Sorry, I'll pack my stuff as soon as possible.
You didn't do it last night? Jolteon?
I'm sure he'll finish packing in no time.
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Later...
Man, is this a perfect day or what?
You could say that, I guess.
Leafy, how far is it by the way?
Not far. I think we should be there in 15 minutes.
We still have 2 more hours before the ship leaves so we still got plenty of time.
Sweet~
So, Sylveon, is your family coming too?
Yes, I talked to Espeon about this and she agreed. She even had her family meet mine too.
Good to know.
So um... Is it okay to... You know... I think it's about time we all get to know each other better.
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My name's Leaf, and my sister's name is Lazuli.
Those are some cute names.
My sister's or mine?
Both.
Leaf is your name? Isn't it too obvious? I thought Glaceon called you Leafy because you're a Leafeon.
You could say that. Flare is the same as me too.
Actually, my name is Solarflare. The name I told you was just a short form of it.
Then it's nice to know.
Well, I'm Silvia, Speedy's girlfriend.
Who's Speedy exactly?
Oh, that's big bro--
Wait...
...

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Big bro...?
Explain this...
I-it's not what it looks like!
Aw, come on. I'm just kidding around.
Should have told me earlier... Wait, how did you know his name then?
Oh, he told me yesterday.
I did? Oh yeah, I did!
Seems like you two are hiding something... Hey, I just remembered. About a month ago, your brother called Jolteon Yellow... Yellow something...
You mean Yellow Flash?
That one.
Yellow Flash? Never heard of it before. Why did he call you that?
I once heard big bro said he joined a couple of races before since he loves running. Maybe he got that name from one of them?
Something like that--
Actually no, he was a cha--
Kya!
?!

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Silvia, they're better off not knowing the trouble I was in.
I don't want Flare to worry like you did, and sorry by the way.
Um... It's okay.
?!
What the heck were you trying to do to her?!
Slipped? You call that slipped?!
Nothing, my legs slipped.
I-it's just a misunderstanding.
Wow, did you see how fast he moved?
That's big bro alright, but I've only seen him do this whenever he cleaned the house.
Why did you jump at Silvia?
I told you my legs slipped.
You did that on purpose!
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?!
Why did you dodge?!
Sorry, I didn't mean to.
Strange, normally big brother doesn't dodge.
Hmm...
Um... I think we should get going.
You're right. We're wasting time here.
By the way, what were you going to say back then?
Oh, Jolteon was one of the champions in Sunny town, but that's not all. He was also...
Hey! Stop hurting yourself!
15 minutes later...
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I've never thought Speed used to be famous.
Me too. In the end, big bro gave up his dream to look after Sunshine.
He gave up his dream for Eevee? That just reminds me of my daddy...
Hey, you bashed your head against a tree a while ago. Are you sure you're okay?
My skull is now thicker than last time.
What?
Hey um... I just want to say sorry for telling your secrets...
No need, at least those were some of the good ones.
I have no idea what you mean right now.
What's wrong? Why did you stop? What are you staring at?
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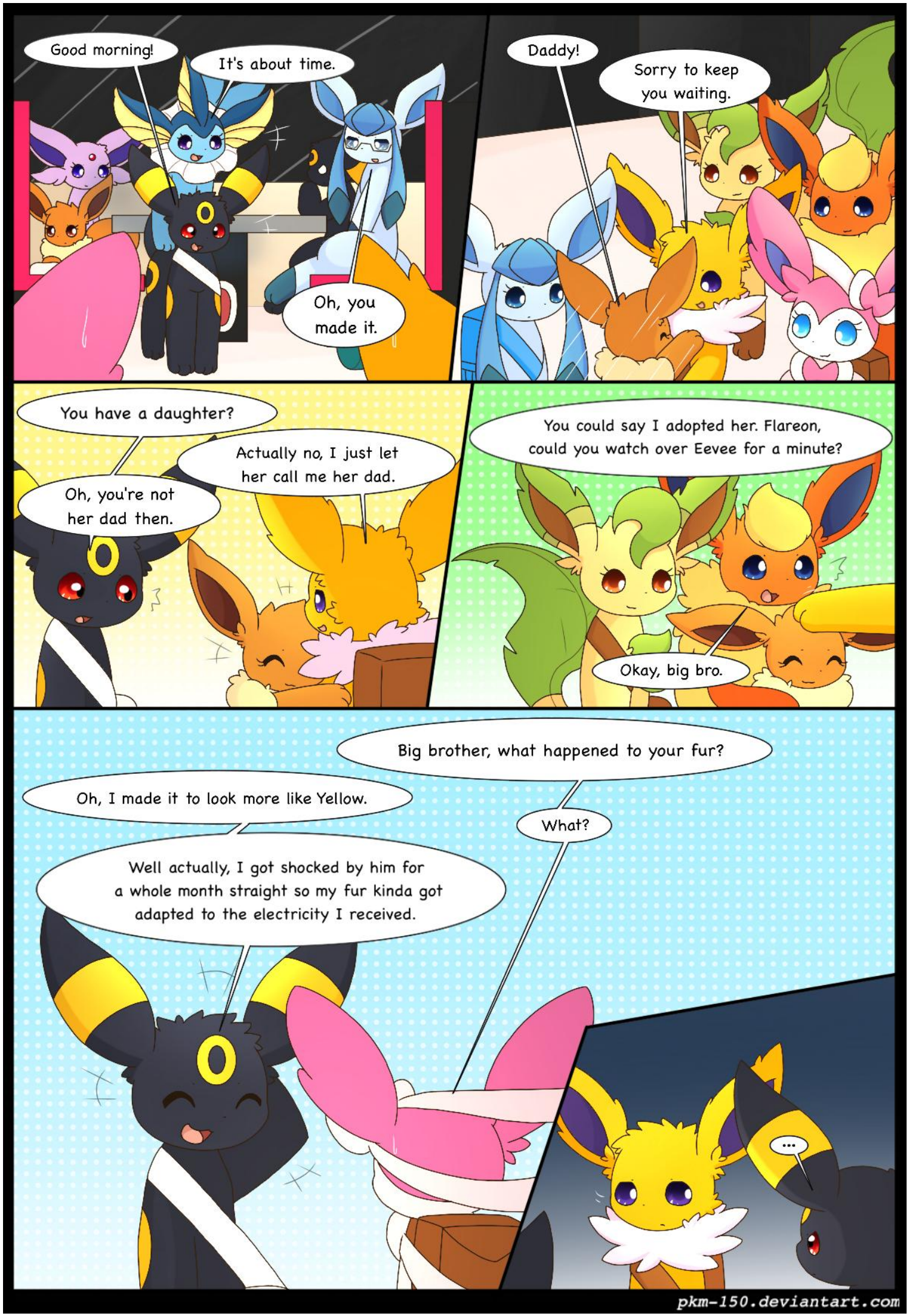
Good morning!
It's about time.
Oh, you made it.
Daddy!
Sorry to keep you waiting.
You have a daughter?
Actually no, I just let her call me her dad.
Oh, you're not her dad then.
You could say I adopted her. Flareon, could you watch over Eevee for a minute?
Okay, big bro.
Big brother, what happened to your fur?
Oh, I made it to look more like Yellow.
What?
Well actually, I got shocked by him for a whole month straight so my fur kinda got adapted to the electricity I received.
...
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Hey...
You lied to me! Everything he said about you proves that you're Speedy! All I wanted was for you to tell me the truth, so why can't you just be honest with me?!
Before you say anything else, I'm sorry...
Sorry? Sorry?! You think that is enough?!
Whoa, whoa, break it up, you two. You're scaring the little girl here.
What's going on?
...
Look, I don't know what was going on between you two, but we're here to have a vacation together, not making drama. So let's just be friends and enjoy the time here.
What's going on?
I don't know.

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Daddy?
Espeon, are you okay?
I'm fine. Just want to go for a walk.
Cousin-Pearl!
Oh, hi. Axel, where are your parents and Mrs. Mollie?
We're right here.
Sorry to keep you waiting.
Mrs. Mollie, are you okay?
I'm fine. Is everyone here yet?
Mom and dad aren't here yet.

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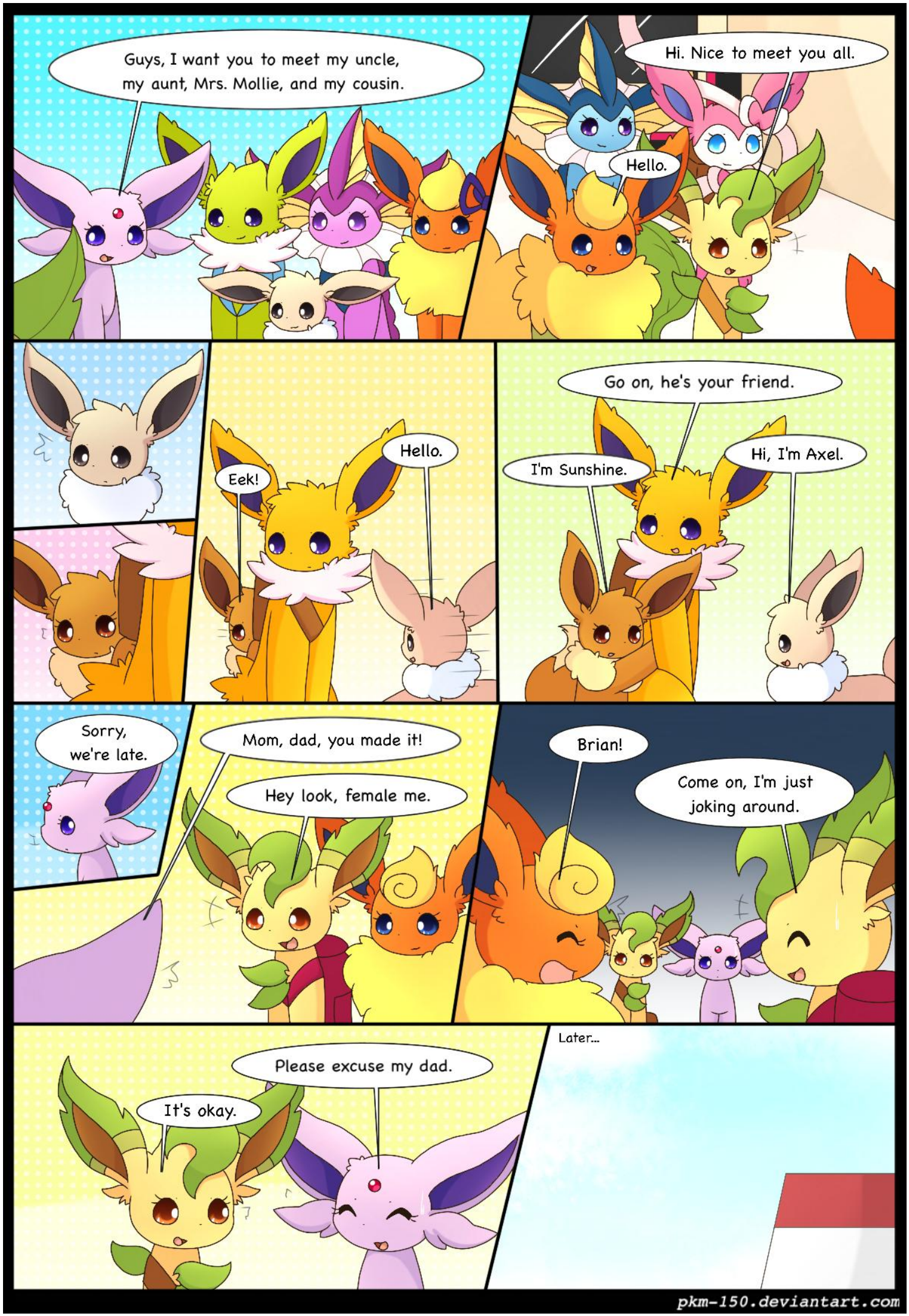
Guys, I want you to meet my uncle, my aunt, Mrs. Mollie, and my cousin.
Hi. Nice to meet you all.
Hello.
Eek!
Hello.
Go on, he's your friend.
I'm Sunshine.
Hi, I'm Axel.
Sorry, we're late.
Mom, dad, you made it!
Hey look, female me.
Brian!
Come on, I'm just joking around.
Please excuse my dad.
It's okay.
Later...
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Is everyone on board?
1, 2, 3... 17, Everyone is aboard.
Good. Hey buddy, even though we've just met for a week, I think you're a great friend.
Thanks...?
Espeon, how long does it take to reach the shore?
It should be about 3 hours.
Jolteon, are you okay?
Fine...
You don't look fine. Seasick?
No... I guess I'm just a bit traumatized by the ocean... Sorta bring back frightening memories too...
Over here.
I've never seen Eevee this happy.
I could say the same.
Hey~ How are you two doing?
Good.

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So are you two dating?

Wh-what?

Oh, sorry. Did I say anything wrong?

I'll leave you two alone for now.

Later...

Everyone, may I have your attention, please? My family wants to get to know all of you better so I would like all of you to introduce yourself to each other.

Not a bad idea. Let's do this.

Alright, my family and I will go first. My name is Pearl.

My name's Blaze.

Brian.

Bolt is my name.

Hello, everyone. I'm Axel.

Rin.

You can call me Mollie.

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Okay, Sylveon, your family is next.
Hi, I'm Silvia.
Gai at your service~
Frank.
Glaceon and Leafeon, you're next.
I'm Leaf. Nice to meet you all.
Lazuli...
Umbreon?
The name's Black.
Now it's Jolteon's family turn.
I'm Solarflare, you can call me Flare for short.
Crystal!
H-hello, I'm Sunshine.
Speed...
So you're the Jolteon that my wife has been telling me about.
Isn't he adorable? He would make a great husband for our little niece.
?
Aunty!
?
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Sis, what's wrong?
It's nothing... Leafy, do you think I'm terrible?
No, you're the nicest sister I could ever have--
To everyone else, I am, ain't I?
Sis...
I know, I know... It's just seeing everyone being nice to me makes me feel bad for what I did... You always look up to me with kind eyes, and you always say nice things about me and treat me like I'm perfect, still...
I could never be like what you think of me. I've always known I'm bad. To me, I think you're so good and I'm nothing like you. When I look at you, I just adore you. Sometimes I just wish mom was still here...
You're always the same loving sister of mine and nothing can change it. You just need to trust everyone and start being yourself again.
Be myself...?
I just need some alone time, okay...?
Okay...

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Is your sister okay?
I think so.
Big brother, I'm surprised you didn't do anything weird today.
Only because there are kids around. I don't wanna be a bad role model for them.
Something weird?
It's grown up stuff, kiddo.
...
Big sis-Leafeon, are you okay?
I'm okay. You can just call me Leafy now.
Aye, big sis-Leafy.
Sunshine, you're so cute.
I am?
Yes, you are. And you both are cute.
Can I call you big brother?
Your name is Axel, right?
Sure.
Yes.

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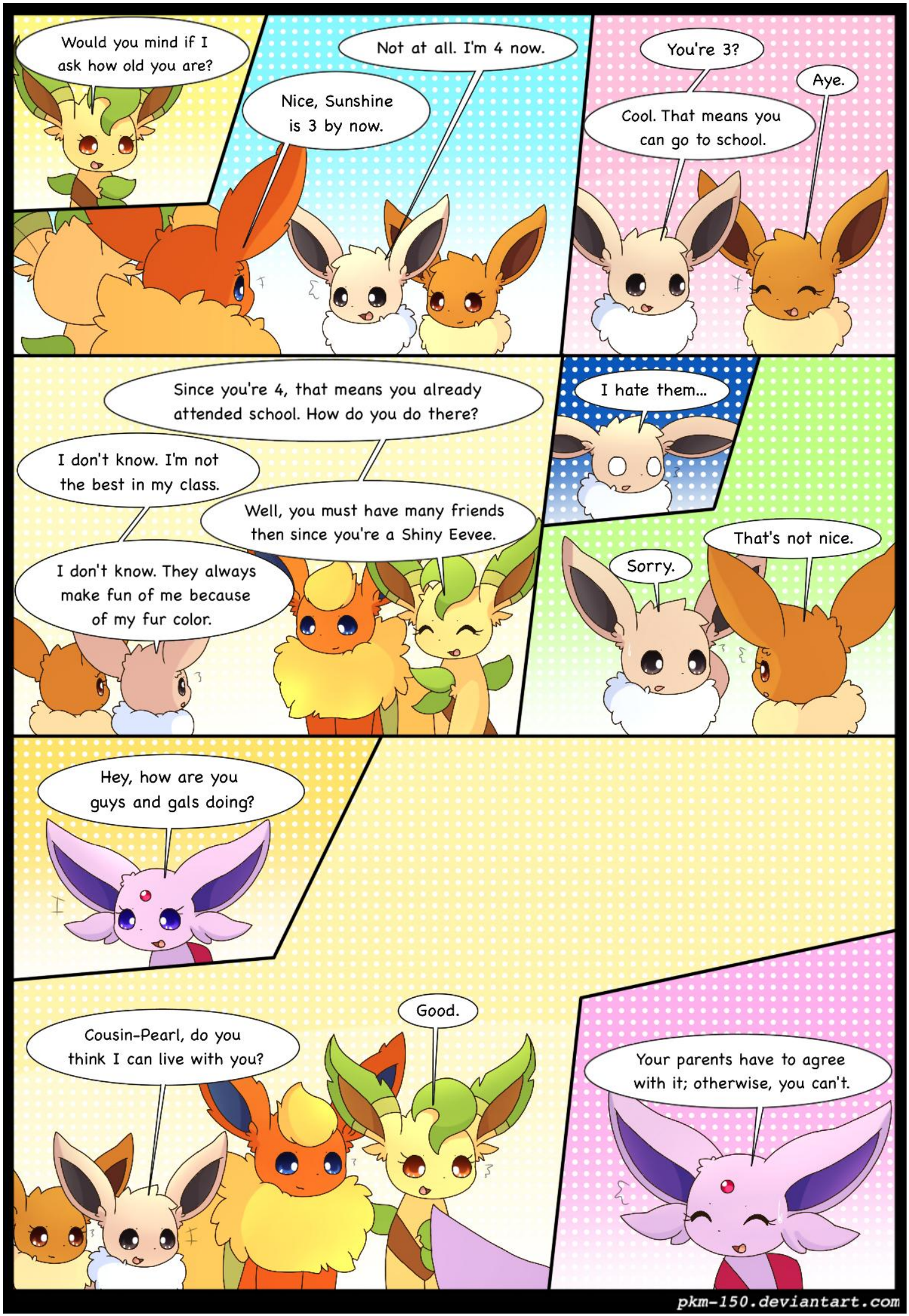
Would you mind if I ask how old you are?
Not at all. I'm 4 now.
Nice, Sunshine is 3 by now.
You're 3?
Aye.
Cool. That means you can go to school.
I hate them...
Since you're 4, that means you already attended school. How do you do there?
I don't know. I'm not the best in my class.
Well, you must have many friends then since you're a Shiny Eevee.
I don't know. They always make fun of me because of my fur color.
That's not nice.
Sorry.
Hey, how are you guys and gals doing?
Cousin-Pearl, do you think I can live with you?
Good.
Your parents have to agree with it; otherwise, you can't.

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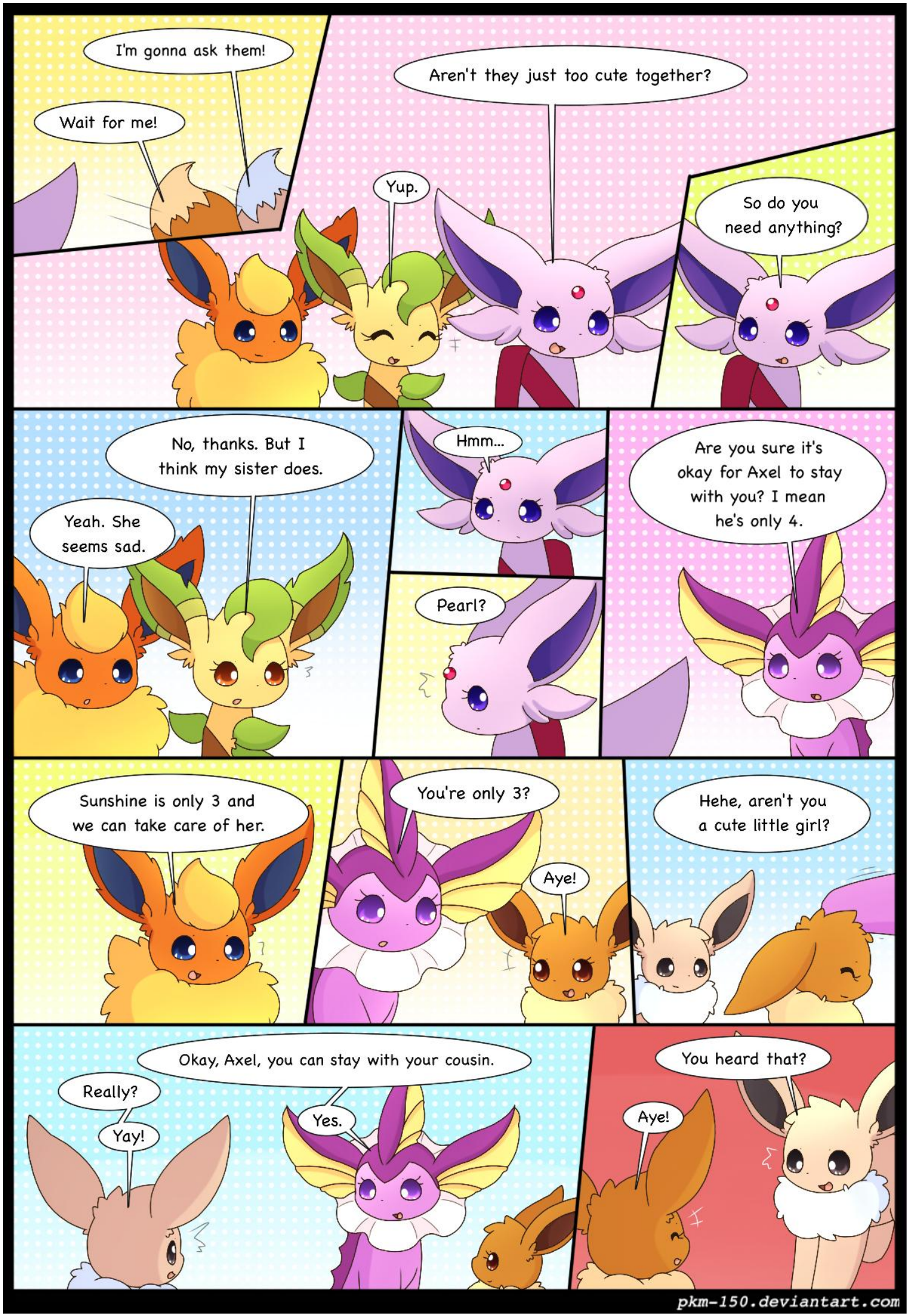
I'm gonna ask them!
Wait for me!
Aren't they just too cute together?
Yup.
So do you need anything?
No, thanks. But I think my sister does.
Yeah. She seems sad.
Hmm...
Pearl?
Are you sure it's okay for Axel to stay with you? I mean he's only 4.
Sunshine is only 3 and we can take care of her.
You're only 3?
Aye!
Hehe, aren't you a cute little girl?
Okay, Axel, you can stay with your cousin.
Really?
Yay!
Yes.
You heard that?
Aye!
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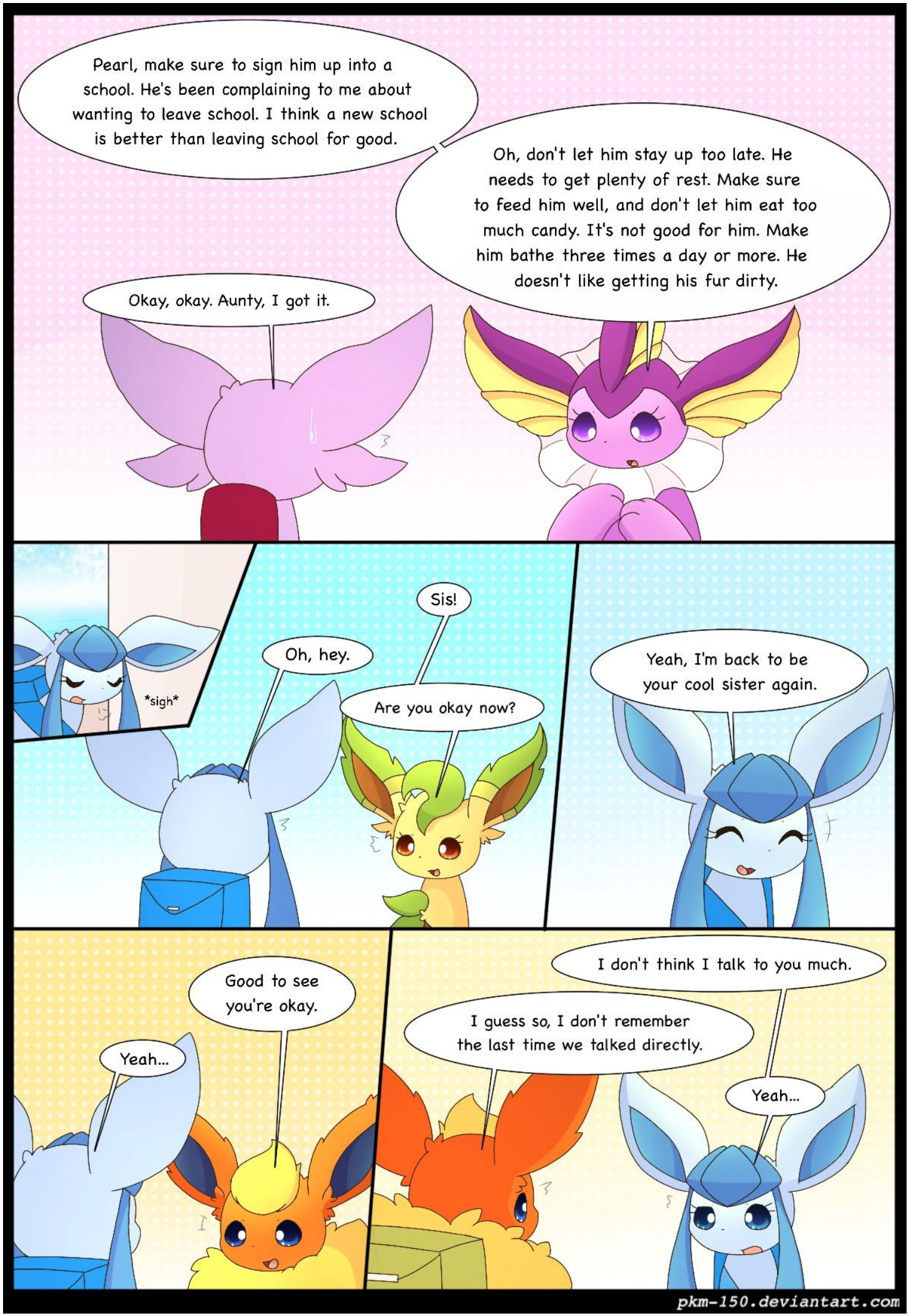
Pearl, make sure to sign him up into a school. He's been complaining to me about wanting to leave school. I think a new school is better than leaving school for good.
Oh, don't let him stay up too late. He needs to get plenty of rest. Make sure to feed him well, and don't let him eat too much candy. It's not good for him. Make him bathe three times a day or more. He doesn't like getting his fur dirty.
Okay, okay. Aunty, I got it.
sigh
Oh, hey.
Sis!
Are you okay now?
Yeah, I'm back to be your cool sister again.
Good to see you're okay.
Yeah...
I don't think I talk to you much.
I guess so, I don't remember the last time we talked directly.
Yeah...
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Well, you rarely talk to him.
I know that.
Is something wrong?
N-no.
Hi, there.
Hi...?
Aren't you a cutie?
You think I'm cute?
Of course.
Aunt-Rin, mind if we know what town you're living in?
I don't mind. I'm currently living in Terra Town.
Terra Town...?
Is something wrong?
Terra Town is our hometown...
I see... You must miss your hometown then. If you want, I can take you there when--
No, no, it's okay.

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I know what you need, a hug.
That doesn't sound bad. Hug.
Hey, wait--
Too friendly...
Sorry.
I wanna hug too!
Hug!
No, no, no, wait!
Kya!
Eevee, cut it out!
Teehee.
Several hours later...
Finally...
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Wow! This island looks more advanced than where we come from.
Of course, this whole island is like a nation.
Wow...
splash
What was that?
I think it was just a rock that fell into the water.
Stay close to us, okay?
Okay.
Aye!
I'll be right back.
So where's the place we're gonna stay?
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I have a beach house on this island.
We'll stay there until we go back home.
What do we do now?
Hmm... It says here that there's something they call a train. There wasn't one before.
Wait for my sister first.
Where did she go?
I think she just went to the bathroom.
Guys!
What's going on?
I found her near the shore.
Should we help her?
Well, you already brought her here.
So much for a peaceful vacation.
Hey, nothing has changed yet.
She's acting differently...
She's kinda cute--
Not now, big brother...
What should we do now?
There's a police department nearby.
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Oh, I know. Get her there, tell them what happened and done. She won't be our problem anymore.
Brian!
Come on, I'm not even joking this time.
She's waking up.
Can you hear me? Are you okay?
I think so...
Good... What happened to you?
I don't really know... All I remember is I entered a magnagate...
Magnagate, huh...?
For the meantime, is there anything we can do to help?
Mind if I stay with you...? I don't know where I am right now...
Of course.
What?!
But she's a stranger. We just met her a few minutes ago.
What could go wrong? She lost her memory so it's not safe for her to wander on her own.
Yeah... What could go wrong...
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What's your name?
Cc.
Okay...? Would you like to go to a health center?
No need. I think I'm good.
Guess we have to pay for an extra seat then.
Sis, doesn't that Glaceon...
What...? How...? Why does she have a similar voice as mine?
Later...
Wow... This is your beach house?
Yes.
This is amazing.
Would you all mind helping me clean the place up first? It's filled with dust.
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Seriously?
What's up with those eyes?
This is gonna be fun.
Save the cleaning for later! We have a beautiful beach here.
Let's go!
I guess we can clean it later. Wanna go down there?
...
Yay!
Almost done.
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That's a big sandcastle.
Flare, Speed doesn't want to join us.
Oh, I think he prefers to clean the house.
Well, both he and my uncle are cleaning freaks after all.
Yeah... I can see that...
What about that girl?
We'll let her stay with us for a while. Hopefully, she'll find her way home before we return home.
Sunshine, am I your first friend?
No, but you're my second best friend.
So who was your first friend?
Oh, that was just her imaginary friend. She named him Vi. She said she was with him when she got lost in the town. When we found her, we didn't see anyone with her.

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Wait, she got lost in the town once?
F-forget what I just said.
So that's why big bro never wants to take her to the town again.
Why don't big sis and big brother believe me...? Vi is real, he's real.
I believe you.
Really?
Yes, I would love to meet him one day.
Thank you.
I kinda feel bad for hurting her feelings.
At least she's happy now.
Big brother, come on! Get over here!
Oh, no, no, no.
Why not?
If you love me, let me go--
My beautiful fur!
Wait, you were lying about your fur?
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Why did you have to do that?!
What? You didn't tell me you used hair gel.
...
Hi, there.
Hello.
Aunt-Mollie, what happened to your leg?
It was an accident.
Anyway, what about your parents? They couldn't come?
Is something wrong?
I... I don't have parents.
I don't have parents anymore.
I'm so sorry to hear that. I shouldn't have asked.
I know what it's like to lose someone you love. I also lost a family of my own too...
Sorry to hear that.
It's all just the past now. We have to move on.

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Later...
Hey, guys! We're done cleaning the house. Speed and I will go grocery shopping.
Oh, don't forget to buy a lot of soft drinks.
We want cookies!
Got it.
We'll be right back.
Okay, everyone! I think it's about time we head inside the house.
Alright!
Let's go.
Okay.
Come on, you two.
Alright.
Aye!
Flare, let's go inside the house.
Okay.
Later...
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Silvia, what are you doing?
Playing a video game.
Can I try?
No, this is Jolteon's video game.
I found it in his backpack first though. Can I play now?
We're back!
Jolteon, did you buy cookies?
Of course.
Yay!
Where is everyone else?
They're in their rooms. Uncle-Fred said this house only has 4 bedrooms so we have to share our rooms.
At least the rooms are big, right?
Yup.

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Alright, I'll make dinner. Any of you girls and boys wanna help?
I can help.
Me too.
Sure.
You're Leaf and Flare, right? You two set up the table.
Okay.
Later...
All done.
Wow...
Yummy!
Speed, call the others.
Okay.
Everyone here go to your seat.
They look tasty.
Yup.
I mind! This seat is for Jolteon.
It's not like that!
Mind if I sit here?
Why? Oh, don't tell me you--
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What's wrong?
N-nothing.
Thanks for taking care of my little girl.
No need. We all take care of each other.
Mom, I'm not a little girl anymore.
It's nice to stay with all of you.
Yup.
Well, well, would you look at that? It looks like we're twinsies now. Am I right?
Shut up...
This week is gonna be the best week ever!
Oh, right. What's our plan?
Uncle, what are we gonna do tomorrow?
Alright, here's the plan.
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Today is the first day and our arrival to the island, correct? What we need to do today is get plenty of rest.

On the second day, we adults will stay here and rest for another day, but you kids can go sightseeing around the town. As for you, Pearl, don't forget to buy some more food and drinks.

On the third day, we'll have a BBQ on the beach. We will play on the beach for a whole day.

On the fourth day, and fifth day, we will go to visit all the tourist attractions on this island. If we have time, we will go to the hot springs too.

On the sixth day, we can go shopping in a mall. There is a big mall on this island. After shopping, you can choose to go sightseeing or stay in this house and rest.

And finally, on the seventh day, we will return home.

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?
Flare?
Ah!
Did I scare you?
A-a little.
Looks like we're alone now.
I guess...
Are you watching the stars?
Yes. They're pretty.
They are.
Leafy, I've been wondering...
...what it's like... to have a mother...
I don't know why it comes into my mind. I just want to see my parents. Even if it's just once, it's enough...
Flare...
What about your parents?
I... I lost my mom when I was 5, and my dad abandoned us after mom was gone.
I-I'm sorry to hear that. I shouldn't have asked.
It's okay. At least, I still have my sister.

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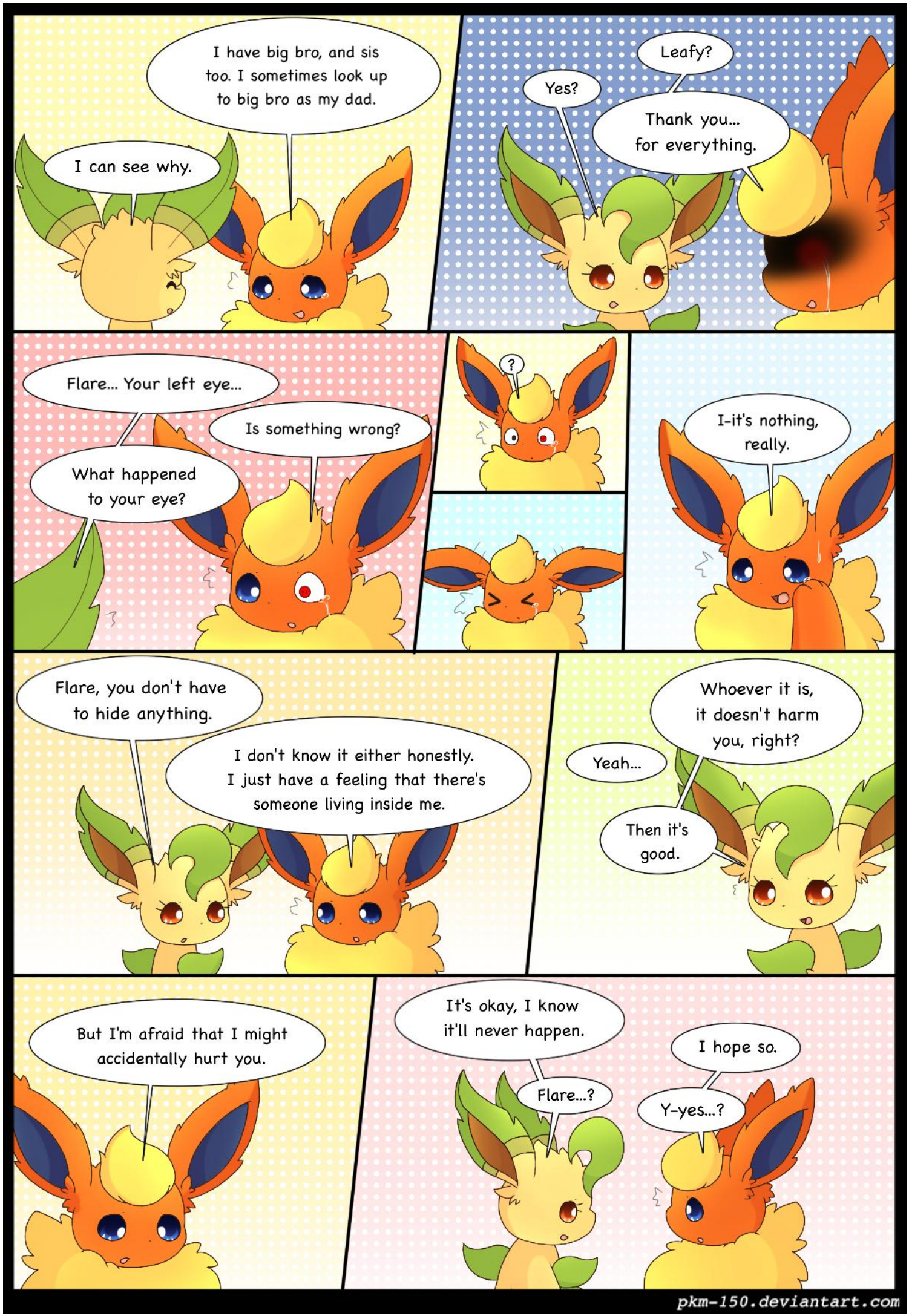
I have big bro, and sis too. I sometimes look up to big bro as my dad.
I can see why.
Leafy?
Yes?
Thank you... for everything.
Flare... Your left eye...
What happened to your eye?
Is something wrong?
?
I-it's nothing, really.
Flare, you don't have to hide anything.
I don't know it either honestly. I just have a feeling that there's someone living inside me.
Whoever it is, it doesn't harm you, right?
Yeah...
Then it's good.
But I'm afraid that I might accidentally hurt you.
It's okay, I know it'll never happen.
Flare...?
I hope so.
Y-yes...?
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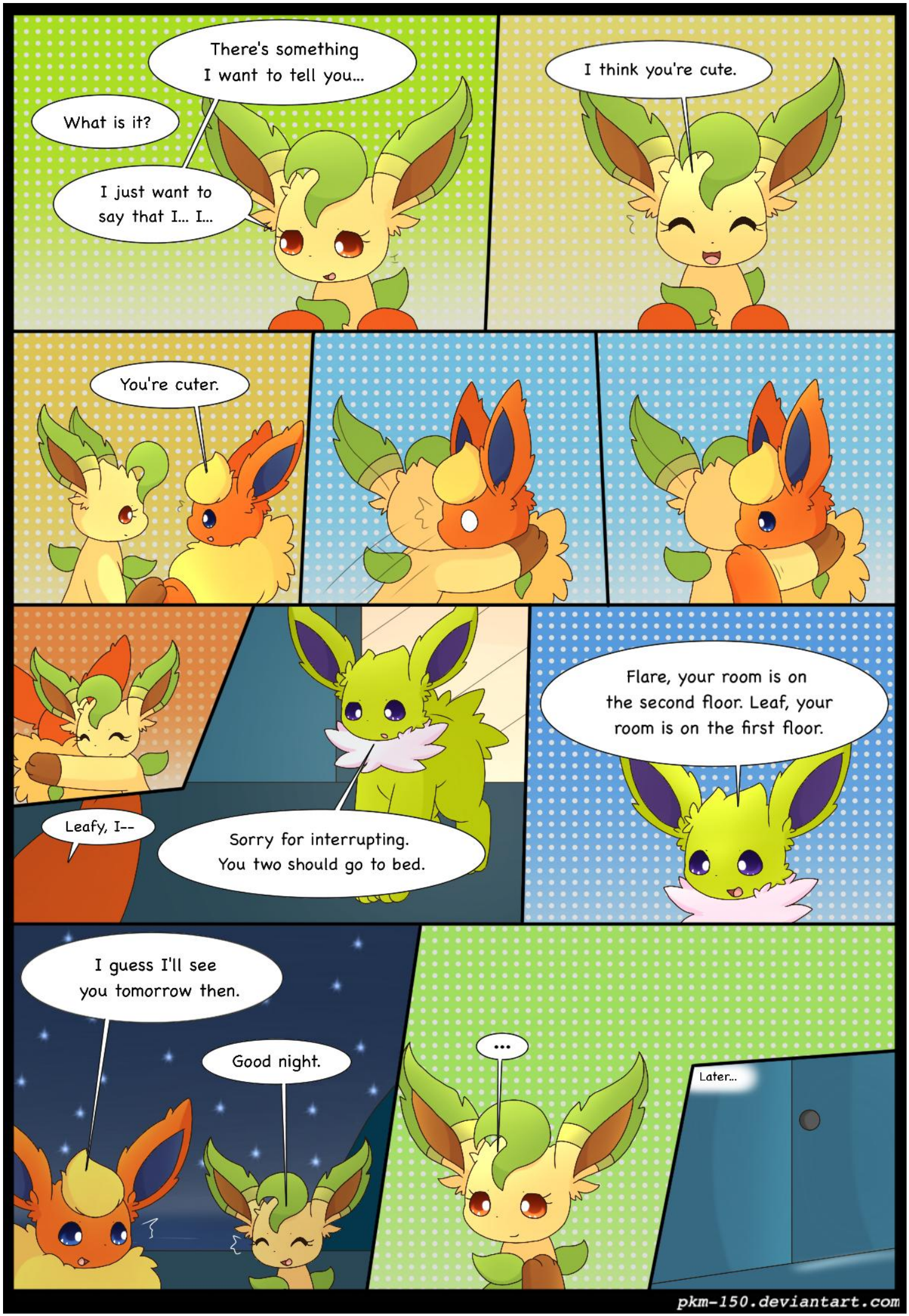
There's something I want to tell you...
What is it?
I just want to say that I... I...
I think you're cute.
You're cuter.
Leafy, I--
Sorry for interrupting. You two should go to bed.
Flare, your room is on the second floor. Leaf, your room is on the first floor.
I guess I'll see you tomorrow then.
Good night.
...
Later...
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Silvia, what are you doing?
Oh, nothing. Just wondering where the boys' room is or which room they stay.
The boys' room?
Why?
Why? We're here to have fun. Like what Espy said on the first night at our treehouse, if we all had a sleepover in a single room, it would be more fun.
That was like 5 months ago.
I feel like you're just trying to sneak up on someone.
N-no, what are you talking about?
Our room ran out of soft drinks. Do they have soda pops?
I'm sure they do.
I'm in!
But wouldn't we get in trouble? Besides, none of us asked the boys which room they picked nor even bothered searching every room before bedtime.
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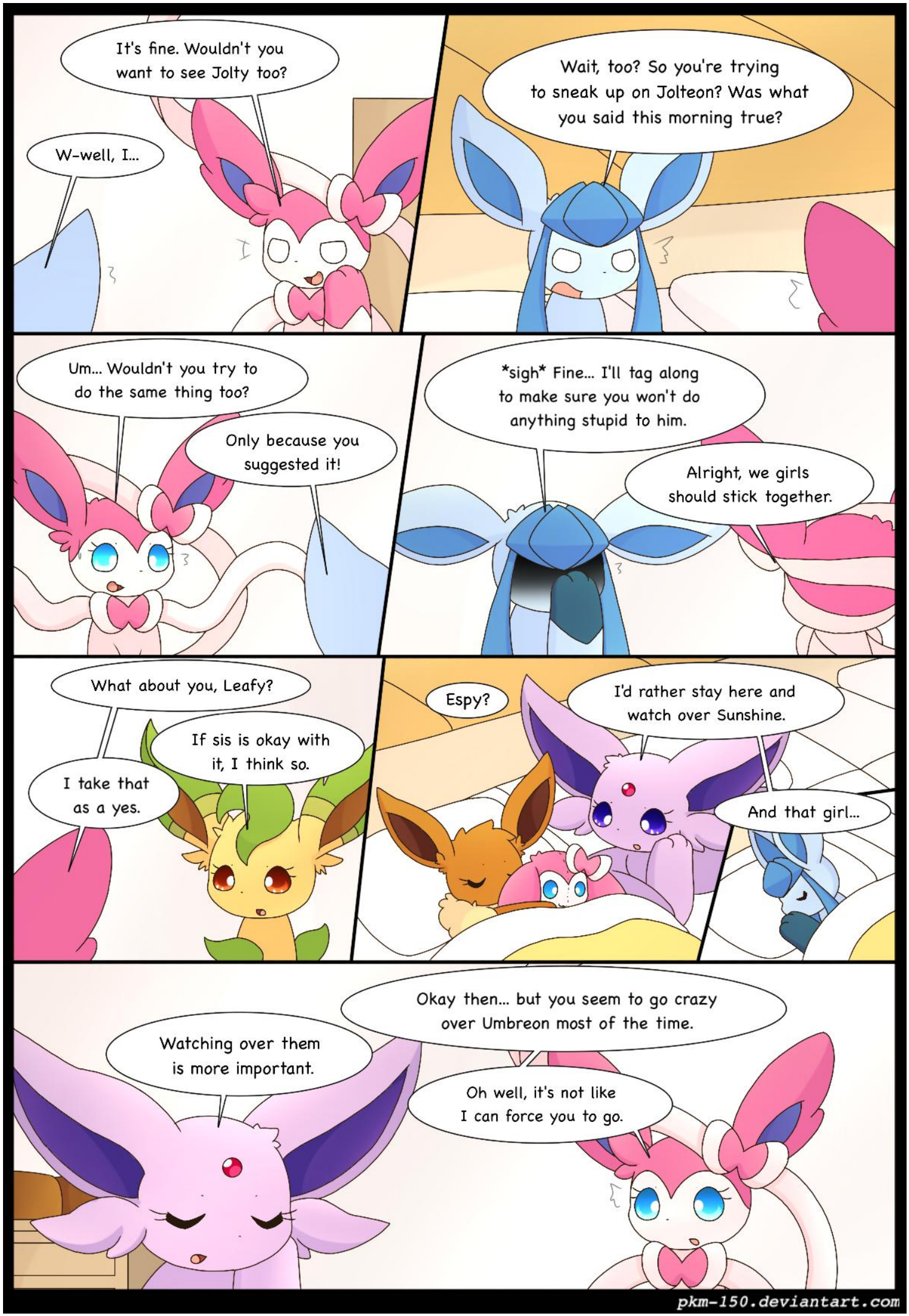
It's fine. Wouldn't you want to see Jolty too?
W-well, I...
Wait, too? So you're trying to sneak up on Jolteon? Was what you said this morning true?
Um... Wouldn't you try to do the same thing too?
Only because you suggested it!
sigh Fine... I'll tag along to make sure you won't do anything stupid to him.
Alright, we girls should stick together.
What about you, Leafy?
I take that as a yes.
If sis is okay with it, I think so.
Espy?
I'd rather stay here and watch over Sunshine.
And that girl...
Okay then... but you seem to go crazy over Umbreon most of the time.
Watching over them is more important.
Oh well, it's not like I can force you to go.
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So what's the plan? To start off, we don't even know where the boys' room is.
And if Pearl's family and your dad catch us, we will be in big trouble. Who knows what kind of punishment we will get...
Ain't that the truth...
Why are you staring at me like that?
Leafy, do you think you can snoop around to find the boys' room?
Oh right, if I go, I can only get past my daddy, not Espy's family. You seem to get along with them well.
Do you think you can do it?
I'll do my best.
Good, we're counting on you.
Later...
Which room is it...?
Ahem.
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Meanwhile...
What's taking Leafy so long?
I hope nothing has gone wrong.
I think my aunt or uncle caught her.
I'll go take a look.
So you were trying to sneak into the boys' room. Is there anyone else with you on this?
N-no, only me. S-sorry.
What's wrong?
Espy's uncle got her. Poor girl, at least she made an excuse for us. Let's go.
Oh no. We can't just leave her.
Glaceon is right.
But this is our chance.
And you said we all should stick together.
Sylveon, I'm with you most of the time, but this time I'm with Glaceon.
Fine... Let's see what we can do...
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Okay, here's the plan. Do whatever it takes to distract them. Once they're distracted, get Leafy out of there.
That's a terrible idea.
You have a better idea?
No...
Okay, I'll give it a try. Wish me luck.
Excuse me, uncle. I'm really hungry. Could you help me make some snacks?
Sis?
Oh, why don't you help yourself with the leftover food in the kitchen? It's right downstairs.
But um... I guess I can do it myself then...
She messed it up. Ready for plan-B?
Ready.
Uncle, do you have any sodas? I'm really thirsty.
Oh, help yourself with anything in the small fridge over here.
Thank you~
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tssst
She's not even acting...?
Daddy, I'm hungry. Could you make me a sandwich?
Don't you know how to make one yourself?
I forgot.
This is getting out of hand.
Go to the kitchen if you want a snack.
Peace at last...
I'm thirsty.
Me too.
Alright, let's see what's in the fridge.
Empty.
Did Crystal just drink everything in the fridge in less than 5 minutes...?
Uncle, I can go downstairs and bring you some drinks.
That would be nice. Just go.
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You're just gonna let her go easily?
Yeah, it's not like she did anything wrong.
Make sure to bring back the coldest ones.
sigh Just go.
I'll be right back.
Phew...
Leafy, you're free.
How did you manage to get away from them?
They let me go to bring them some drinks.
Never thought it was that easy.
Okay, let's help Leafeon get the drinks.
Sounds good.
Soon...
Uncle, I brought soda pops.
Good, now go to bed.
I will.
Is it over?
Yes.
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Let's find the boys' room.
Do you know where it is?
All I know is it's on the second floor.
Hmm... Two rooms... Which one of those is the boys' room?
Eeny, meeny, miny, moe. That one.
It's locked. Now what?
click
?
click
Did these doors just unlock by themselves?
Wait, I saw this before. It's Espy's Psychic!
I guess I just can't leave them alone.
I'm not a curse... I'm not a curse...
Hmm...
Espy is the best!
Yay!

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Are you girls ready?
Yup.
Yes.
Ready.
yawn Is anyone there...?
We're in the wrong room...?!
What are you girls doing here in the middle of the night...?

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Hmph...
I see...
It's nice of you to join us.
Whoa...
I've always wanted to buy this book, now I can read it for free!
I hate books...
I'll bring you back to your room in an hour.
Okay, Aunt-Rin.
End of Chapter 5
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